

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 111103

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TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 111103

FOLLOWING REPEAT USMISSION NATO 2898 ACTION STATE INFO BONN
LONDON PARIS ROME BRUSSELS SHAPE 24 MAY 1974. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2898

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, XG

SUBJ:EUROGROUP

REF: LONDON 6473 NOTAL

1. SUPPLEMENTING TIMELY REPORT IN REFTTEL, CULHAM (UK), SECRETARY
OF EUROGROUP STAFF GROUP, FILLIED US IN ON MAY 21 OSLO MEETING OF
SENIOR EUROGROUP OFFICIALS. FOLLOWING POINTS WERE OF INTEREST:

2. ROLE OF EUROPEAN INDUSTRY IN NATO PROCUREMENT (USNATO 2832):

UK WAS ASKED TO REWRITE PAPER FOR MINISTERS TO REFELECT DISCUSSION.
SEVERAL REPS EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT US WOULD BE WILLING TO
ABANDON R AND D IN ANY MAJOR WEAPONS SECTOR MERELY ON UNDERSTANDING
THAT EUROPEANS WOULD FILL THE VOID. EVEN IF US PROVES WILLING
TO CEDE FIELD TO EUROPEANS, REPS OF SMALLER MEMBERS (E.G., NORWAY)
SAID THEY WOULD NEED GUARANTEES THAT THEIR INDUSTRIES AS WELL AS THOS
E

OF UK AND FRG WOULD PARTICIPATE IN ARRANGEMENTS FOR JOINT
EUROPEAN PRODUCTION. ONE ANSWER TO COMPLEX PROBLEMS, ACCORDING
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PAGE 02 STATE 111103

TO GERMANS, WAS TO LOOK AS FAR INTO FUTURE AS POSSIBLE. GERMAN

STUDY ON COMMON PRODUCTION PERTAINED TO A SUCCESSOR SYSTEM FOR IMPROVED HAWK, IN PAST-1985 PERIOD. IF EUROPEANS HOPED TO PROVIDE JOINTLY A REPLACEMENT FOR HAWK, GERMANS MAINTAINED THEY SHOULD BEGIN PLANNING NOW.

3. BURDEN-SHARING: CULHAM SAID THIS TOPIC, WHICH WAS CENTRAL TO EUROGROUP MEETINGS SIX MONTHS AGO, WAS NOT MENTIONED FORMALLY IN OSLO MEETING. EUROGROUP MEMBERS SEEM HOPEFUL THAT US PROBLEM HAS BEEN SOLVED, AT LEAST FOR JACKSON-NUNN PURPOSES, BUT THERE WAS REAL CONCERN AMONG OTHERS LEST THE UK PRODUCE A "HEALEY-MASON AMENDMENT" IN THE COMING MONTHS.

4. FRANCE: ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME MILD AND GUARDED OPTIMISM ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE OF GISCARD ELECTION, OFFICIALS REJECTED AS PREMATURE A TURKISH PROPOSAL TO DISCUSS CURRENT PROSPECTS FOR DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH FRANCE.

5. ITALIAN ATTITUDES: CULHAM (PROTECT ON THIS POINT) SAID ITALIANS CONTINUED, AS THEY HAD LAST YEAR, TO LOOK OVER THEIR SHOULDERS AT FRANCE AND PUT THE BRAKES ON ANYTHING THAT MIGHT ENHANCE THE STATUS OR VISIBILITY OF THE EUROGROUP. ITALIAN REP DARIN HAD GIVEN A "LONG SPIEL" ABOUT LIMITING THE EUROGRUP TO A "TECHNICAL" MODE.

6. EUROLONGTERM PROJECT ON COMMON DEFENSE STRUCTURE: CULHAM SAID GERMANS HAD DONE NOTHING TO GET THIS PROJECT (STANDARDIZING COMMAND STRUCTURES, ETC., OF EUROPEAN ALLIED FORCES) MOVING, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD PROPOSED IT THEMSELVES OVER A YEAR AGO, AND EUROGROUP MINISTERS HAD APPROVED IT IN DECEMBER. UNDER PRODDING FROM OTHERS, GERMANS HAVE NOW CONVENED ON EXPERTS MEETING TO SET TERMS OF REFERENCE IN BONN IN LATE JUNE. MCAULIFFE

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